

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) announced today that the Workforce Investment Board of Herkimer, Madison and Oneida Counties has received a \$499,576 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to implement a regional long-term workforce development project to train local residents in the health care field.

“I am very pleased to announce this grant to provide job training and long term professional development in the health care field,” said Arcuri. “This program will help to create a new twentieth century workforce and provide lifelong job skills to increase economic growth in our communities. At a time when there is also a staffing shortage in the health care field, this program will improve local health services.”

The program is designed to increase the skills of the region’s refugee population and help area long-term care facilities develop collaborative long-term partnerships to attract new area residents to the field of long-term health care.

“This is a very important project because it takes one of the greatest resources of the Mohawk Valley – our new citizens – and helps them acquire skills they need to find work that not only benefits them financially, but also meets a very important need in the community,” Arcuri said. “I was pleased to support this project and advocate for its funding because it represents an innovative opportunity to bring employers, training providers and community agencies together so that employers can address workforce shortages while also offering new opportunities for our new citizens.”

The Long-Term Care Workforce Development Project of the Herkimer-Madison-Oneida Workforce Investment Board creates an unprecedented alliance of employers, training providers and community-based organizations to address recruitment and retention problems facing long-term care employers by expanding recruitment through partnerships to attract refugees and minority residents to the field; improving retention by providing mentoring for managers and administrators and addresses the need for improved skills among employees by collaboratively developing a regional Long Term Care Direct Care Worker On-the-Job Training Program.

“The employer-led collaboration that made this project possible was an outstanding example of the willingness of the employers in our region’s long-term care sector to respond to workforce issues with innovation and creativity,” said Alice J. Savino, Executive Director of the Workforce

Investment Board. “The terrific partnerships that this project represents can help us build a better system that helps refugees and all people of our area find good jobs in the long-term care sector of the health care field.”

The project brings together a core of partners committed to being change agents for the training of direct care staff to develop regional models of collaboration, training, recruitment and retention. Partners include: Oneida County Workforce Development, the tri-county Working Solutions Consortium, St. Luke’s Home, Valley Health Services, Presbyterian Home, St. Joseph Nursing Home, Rome Health Care Facility, Stonehedge Nursing Home, Mohawk Valley Community College, State University of New York Institute of Technology, Morrisville State College, Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) covering the entire region, Diversified Development, the School and Business Alliance of Oneida County, Cosmopolitan Center, Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees, and Multicultural Association of Medical Interpreters.

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